

Serial No.: 10/062,461
Atty. Docket No.: P67521US0

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed January 23, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 7 and 12 have been canceled, claims 6, 8, 9 and 11 have been amended, and claims 19-21 have been added. Claims 6, 8-11 and 13-21 are pending in the application. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner required submission of a substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.52(a) and (b), in response to which Applicant has herewith provided the required substitute specification. A marked-up copy of the specification showing the changes made therein is also attached. No new matter has been added.

Proposed drawing changes have also been submitted herewith to correct informalities noted therein and to include in Figures 1-3 reference numerals corresponding with those added to the substitute specification for clarification purposes. No new new matter has been added. Favorable consideration is requested.

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The Examiner rejected claims 6-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, noting informalities in claims 6-8 and 11. With the amendments set forth herein, claims 6-18 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,575,544 to Zinn. The Examiner stated that claims 7-10 and 12-18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 6 and 11 to include the limitations of dependent claims 7 and 12, respectively, the latter now canceled. Thus, claims 6 and 11 represent claims 7 and 12 rewritten in independent form and are therefore in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter. Claims 8-10 and 13-18 are also in condition for allowance as claims dependent on an allowable base claim and for the subject matter contained therein.

New claims 19, 20 and 21 represent the subject matter of claims 8, 13 and 15, rewritten in independent form to include

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the original underlying claim from which they directly depended, i.e., original claim 6 in combination with claim 8 to present claim 19, and original claim 11 in combination with each of claims 13 and 15 to present claims 20 and 21, respectively. Therefore, claims 19, 20 and 21 are in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 13 and 15.

With this amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments have been submitted in compliance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter and to correct matters of indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Additionally, the specification has been clarified through the filing of a substitute specification as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, the amendments go to matters of form, place the present application into condition for allowance and are therefore proper after final action. Entry thereof is requested.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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